

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWING FIGURES

The drawings stand objected to because Figure 3A fails to include the changes made of record in the replacement drawings filed July 1, 2005. The attached Replacement Sheet, is identical to the Replacement Sheet filed July 1, 2005, except that it includes the changes marked in red on the Annotated Sheet Showing Changes, which is an appendix to this amendment.

No new matter is added by this amendment.

REMARKS

The Office action dated January 4, 2006, has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in response thereto.

The drawings stand objected to because Figure 3A fails to include the changes made of record in the replacement drawings filed July 1, 2005. The attached Replacement Sheet, is identical to the Replacement Sheet filed July 1, 2005, except that it includes the changes marked in red on the Annotated Sheet Showing Changes, which is an appendix to this amendment.

The Amendments to the Specification attached with this paper corrects the reference number "40" and replaces it with reference "44".

Claims 1-3 and 5-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description. The claims have been amended to remove reference to the stake grooves having been removed from the universal joint and to recite, instead, that the stakes have been removed from the universal joint.

Claims 1-3 and 5-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement the claims have been amended such that they recite that the stakes have been removed thereby producing a space formerly occupied by the stakes. The claims have been amended to remove reference to the stake grooves having been removed from the universal joint. Instead, the claims recite that the stakes have been removed from the universal joint. These amendments to the claims overcome the basis for the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph.

Claims 1-3 and 5-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite because Claim 1 recites that the claimed invention includes "a space" created by "removal of the stake grooves". The claims have been amended so that they recite that the stakes are removed, not the stake grooves. This amendment to the claims overcomes the basis for the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1-3 and 5-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Girquis, ('324 patent). Girquis has been cited for disclosing a yoke having a leg 6, an aperture extending between an inboard surface, an outboard surface, an annular groove, a bearing cup for a retention member 14 located in the annular groove, and a spacer 13.

The claims of this application have been amended to more specifically define the invention and to distinguish it patentably over the cited prior art reference. Claim 1, as amended, recites that the inner surface is formed with an annular groove having a first diameter and a second diameter located inboard of the annular groove, the inboard wall having a third diameter larger than the second diameter and formed with a shoulder on which stakes had been formed and removed. The third bearing cup is recited to be located in the third diameter of the aperture, and the spacer is defined to be located in the space adjacent the bearing cup. The '324 patent does not describe or suggest that the inner surface of the yoke is formed with three diameters, as recited in Claim 1. In fact, yoke 6 is formed only with an annular recess in which the retention member 14 is shown located in Figures 1 and 2. A bearing housing 4 provides a space between the retention member 14 and the bearing cup2 where a spacer 13 is located. But that space is not formed in the yoke 6.

In view of these comments and the amendments of the claims, the claims remaining in this application, claims 1-7 and 27 appear now in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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REPLACEMENT SHEET

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Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

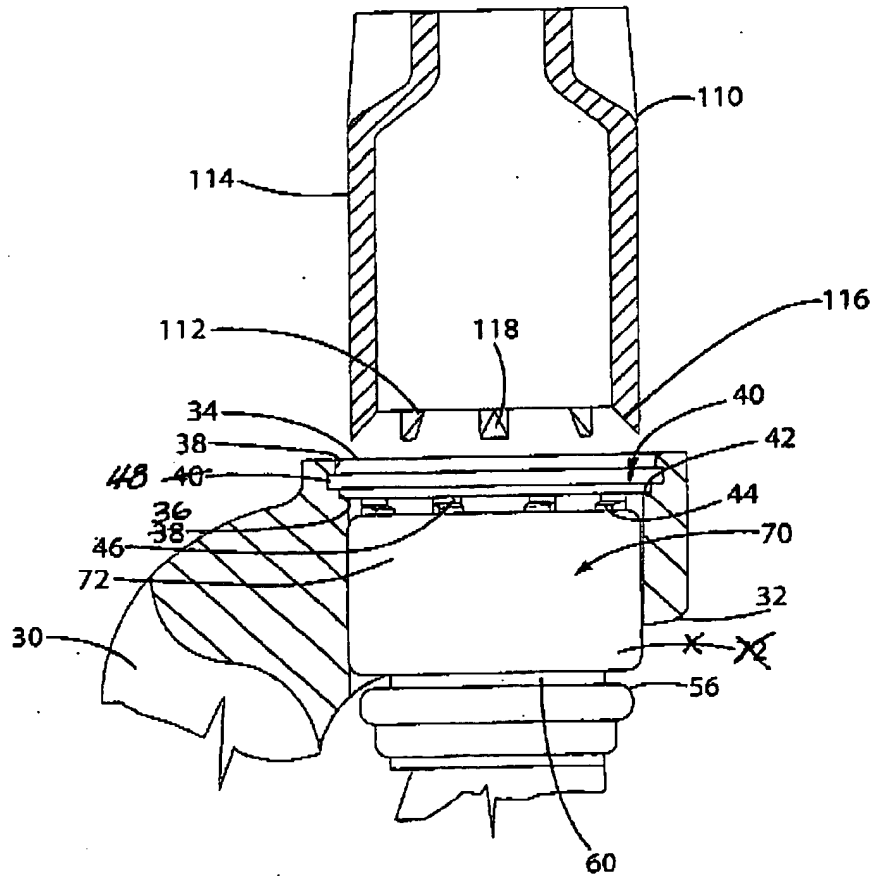


Fig. 3A